United Nations A/69/917

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 May 2015

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 101
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Letter dated 22 May 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Cyprus, Egypt and Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that the second trilateral meeting between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic was held in Nicosia on 29 April 2015.

Following the meeting, a joint declaration was adopted reaffirming the consensus among the three countries on current international and regional issues, and outlining the parameters and principles for their trilateral cooperation aimed at promoting the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, good neighbourly relations, peace and stability (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 101.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Cyprus

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Permanent Representative
Arab Republic of Egypt

(*Signed*) Catherine **Boura**
Permanent Representative
Hellenic Republic

15-08558 (E) 040615

Please recycle

Annex

Cyprus-Egypt-Greece second trilateral summit

Nicosia Declaration 29 April 2015

We, Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, cognizant of the immense and ever-growing challenges to the stability, security and prosperity of the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the wider region, and aware of the need for a constant and concerted collective response, met in Nicosia on 29 April 2015 for the Cyprus-Egypt-Greece second trilateral summit to effectively address those challenges and to continue nurturing our tripartite cooperation, building on the significant progress achieved so far.

The second trilateral summit further strengthens our well-established tripartite partnership promoting peace, stability, security, prosperity and cooperation in all fields in the eastern Mediterranean (political, economic, trade, culture and tourism). In this respect, we reiterated our common position as reflected in the Cairo Declaration of 8 November 2014. This framework serves as a model for a broader regional dialogue, including through close coordination and cooperation in multilateral forums as well as through efforts to further promote relations between the European Union and the Arab world.

We acknowledge the importance of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for the countries of the region. In particular, we fully support the efforts of the Union for the Mediterranean towards growth and socioeconomic development.

We emphasize and reaffirm our previous commitment to mobilizing all our capabilities to effectively promote common values and interests. This tripartite consultation mechanism, which meets regularly at various levels, aims to work towards unleashing the full potential of our region to the benefit of the peoples of our three countries and of the whole region.

The scourge of international terrorism threatens the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel region and sub-Saharan Africa, the Gulf region and Europe. This universal threat requires a comprehensive, coordinated and collective response by the international community. We strongly condemn all terrorist actions and call upon all States to actively and effectively confront this menace and to step up cooperation on security matters with a view to countering extremist groups and exposing their political and financial supporters. We take note of the announcement at the latest summit of the League of Arab States held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 28 and 29 March 2015, on the formation of an Arab rapid reaction force to effectively tackle the terrorist threat.

We have agreed to step up cooperation on counter-terrorism and defence/security, discuss relevant information to jointly combat terrorism and violent extremism and promote regional security, long-term stability and prosperity.

We are encouraged by the recent gains of Iraqi forces in Iraq with the support of the anti-ISIL international coalition It appears, however, that significant challenges remain, taking into consideration the ability of ISIL to recruit additional fighters and its latest counter-attacks. With regard to Syria, we continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy for a new political process in Syria

and to encourage collective action under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 2174 (2014) and 2178 (2014). We also emphasize the need to continue supporting regional countries that suffer from the spill-over effects of this crisis and extend our support to Egyptian efforts to facilitate consensus among the Syrian opposition groups to promote a political solution to the crisis in Syria in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué.

We are gravely concerned over the deterioration of the security situation in Libya and the growing terrorist threat there, which also affects security and stability in neighbouring countries. We therefore strongly support the implementation of a counter-terrorist strategy parallel to the political dialogue and reconciliation process and the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2213 (2015) and 2214 (2015). We express our support for the work of the Special Representative for Libya and, at the same time, reaffirm our position supporting the legitimate institutions, including the current Government in Al Bayda formed by the House of Representatives, until the formation of a national unity Government.

The deteriorating situation in Yemen threatens to destabilize the Gulf region, the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea region and the wider Middle East. We express our strong support for the legitimate Government of Yemen and for the preservation of its unity and territorial integrity. United Nations-led efforts to resume inclusive negotiations without preconditions are the only way forward and we welcome the efforts by the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to complement such initiatives. All parties must fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2201 (2015) and 2216 (2015). We stress the need to address with determination the threat of extremist and terrorist groups present in Yemen. At the same time, all parties must ensure the protection of civilians and allow unrestricted access to humanitarian aid for the civilian population.

We call for the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and the establishment of a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State on the territories occupied since 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and living in peace and security with all its neighbours, in accordance with the positions and initiatives taken by the European Union and the League of Arab States. Such a settlement remains the only guarantee of avoiding the recurrence of innocent civilian deaths, destruction and heightened tension. We strongly support the resumption of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the two-State solution. In this context, we commend the continuing efforts of Egypt to reach a durable ceasefire in Gaza and to bring peace to the Middle East.

The increase of migratory fluxes constitutes a major challenge for our countries. We agree to mobilize all efforts at our disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human tragedy that we are facing, in cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.

We recognize that the discovery of important hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean can serve as a catalyst for regional cooperation. We stress that this cooperation would be better served through the adherence by the countries of the region to well-established principles of international law. In this respect, we emphasize the universal character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of

the Sea and decide to proceed expeditiously with our negotiations on the delimitation of our maritime zones where it is not yet done.

We also call for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem that will reunify the island in accordance with international law, including the relevant Security Council resolutions. Such a settlement would not only benefit the people of Cyprus as a whole but also significantly contribute to stability and peace in the region. We welcome the enhanced possibility of the resumption of negotiations and the implementation of confidence-building measures.

We agreed to explore all possibilities to further enhance the synergies among our economies, with a view to creating a more positive economic environment for growth, to tackle the challenges of a rapidly changing international economic situation and to jointly benefit from important opportunities arising in our region.

Recognizing that tourism and the maritime industry are vital components of the economy of all three countries, and following the signature on 29 October 2014 of the tripartite memorandum on cooperation in tourism among Cyprus, Greece and Egypt, we agreed to continue working closely together with a view to facilitating and enhancing cooperation on common projects, with the involvement of State and private actors, including developing joint tourism packages and cruises, enhancing the maritime connection between the three countries for the transfer of both cargo and passengers and initiating cooperation on maritime education and training.

Our three countries, convinced of the strategic nature of this trilateral mechanism, will continue working closely towards unleashing the full potential of their cooperation to the benefit of their peoples and to the wider region.